

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

This publication was produced in 2000 as
a joint project of:

Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources - Division of Forestry and the
Bureau of Endangered Resources,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
The Nature Conservancy,
International Paper,
Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.

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and reference publication number FR-174



AMERICAN MARTEN

(*Martes americana*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



Description: The American marten looks similar to the much larger fisher. Martens have thick fur that ranges from reddish-brown to dark brown, with darker colors on the legs and bushy tail. Martens weigh 1-3 pounds compared to 5-15 pounds for the fisher. Martens have proportionally larger ears than the fisher and have a bright yellow chest patch.

Habitat: Martens prefer a habitat of mature conifer forests or a mixed forest, with much woody debris in the understory. Martens avoid large open areas.

Forestry Considerations: Practices that benefit martens include selective cuts that leave treetops scattered throughout stands, and retention of large, dead trees. Limited road access also benefits the marten by reducing opportunities for accidental death and trapping, and by avoiding the creation of barriers to movement.

